



2014 MEN'S, WOMEN'S & COED SLO-PITCH SOFTBALL **RULES & CONDITIONS OF PLAY**

The current Softball Rule Book issued by the Southern California Municipal Athletic Federation will govern all league play with **CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS, AS NOTED BELOW:**

1. UMPIRES

- A. No direct payment to the assigned umpire is required on the field.
- B. Games will only be conducted with City of Torrance certified/contracted officials only. Volunteer officials will not be permitted.

2. FORFEITS

- A. A team not having eight (8) rostered players present and ready to play at the scheduled starting time will be charged with a full game loss in the league standings. **Forfeit time is game time as scheduled.** A player is only present if he/she is in the sight of the umpire.
- B. There are two classifications for forfeits that will determine a team's continued participation in league play, **excused** or **unexcused** forfeits.
 - **Excused forfeits** are obtained when a team notifies a City of Torrance staff member at Wilson Park no later than 4pm the night of the intended absence. A legitimate excuse should be given for the absence. Please take advantage of having an unlimited roster for up to half of the season. Those teams who are short players and obtain 3 excused forfeits in one season will be ineligible for playoffs and will not be allowed to register for the following season.
 - **Unexcused forfeits** are when any team does not give significant notice to staff. If you do not speak with a staff member until after 4pm on the day of it will be considered an unexcused forfeit. If you use illegal players it will be considered an unexcused forfeit. Teams obtaining 2 of these forfeits will not be eligible for playoffs and will not be allowed to register for the following season.
 - **Staff Notification process-** A program staff will contact via email or phone to all teams who commit a No Show No Call forfeit. This process will be to ensure that the offending team does still intend to compete for the remainder of the regular season. Those teams who disband will not get credit or a refund.
- C. **DOUBLE FORFEIT** - If a double forfeit occurs, both teams involved will receive a full game loss in the team standings; these may be unexcused or excused depending on rules above.
- D. There will be **NO** forfeit fees charged or refunds for forfeits in City of Torrance Adult Softball leagues.

NOTE: Following a declared forfeit, teams may pick up players and play a practice game, or use the time for practice, until 10 minutes before the start of the next game. Umpires are not obligated to officiate a forfeited or cancelled game.

3. GAME TIME LIMITS

- A. A regulation game shall consist of **7 innings or (no new inning) after 1 hour and 5 minutes** from scheduled game time, whichever occurs first. (See Coed League Rules).

- B. If the game is started late because of the previous game extending over the time limit, the next scheduled game will not be penalized.
- C. If the score is tied after seven (7) completed innings prior to the time limit, one extra inning must be played. If the score is tied after the time limit has expired (regardless of the number of innings that have been played), one extra inning must be played. If game remains tied, it will be recorded as 1/2 game won and 1/2 game lost.
- D. It is the responsibility of the team managers to verify the innings, time and score with the umpire.
- E. The game will be called after five (5) innings, if a team is 12 runs ahead (or after 4½ innings if the Home Team is ahead by 12 runs). Any team deliberately not scoring the 12th run will be forced to score that run and the game will be called.

4. **INFIELD PRACTICE**

No organized infield practice will be allowed. Teams may use the infield to warm up only.

5. **ELIGIBILITY**

- A. All managers, coaches and players are responsible for the enforcement of, and adherence to the eligibility rules.
- B. **Men's Rule** - All players (male or female) must be 18 years of age or older.
Women's Rule - All players must be female and 18 years of age or older.
- C. Any player attempting to play under an assumed name will be barred from league play. The last game, in which he/she participated before such deception is discovered, shall be declared forfeited.
- D. For a player to be eligible, he/she must complete and sign the official roster/waiver form for their team and be in possession of a legal form of identification. A player must play in at least one game during the first half of the season and must also sign the score card prior to each game played. **PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY AND USE YOUR LEGAL NAME.** Any player refusing to show identification to a staff member during a roster check shall be considered an illegal player resulting in a game forfeit for the offending team.
- E. A player can play in multiple leagues on the same night. A player must play for only **one** team in any slo-pitch league. A player whose name appears on the roster of more than one team in a given league shall be eligible only on the first team he/she played for in any such league.
- F. **Rosters must be turned in prior to the first game.** Failure to turn in a completed roster **before** your second league game will result in a forfeit. An unlimited number of players may be signed by a team prior to the completion of the team's **5th game of the season (3rd game for the Winter league).**
- G. **ADDING PLAYERS** - Players may not be added to the team roster after the stated deadline. Requests made after the regular season and/or during the playoffs will not be approved under any circumstances.
- H. High school students, while a member of any team engaged in inter-scholastic competition, are ineligible. All players must be **18 years or older** at the time they enter the game.

6. **PLAYER'S CODE OF CONDUCT**

- A. It is the direct responsibility of the team manager to acquaint his/her players with the Player's Code of Conduct in the SCMAF Rule Book and to enforce all rules.
- B. *No one is allowed to drink alcoholic beverages at any City of Torrance parks - Ordinance #3025. Anyone associated with a team (player or spectator) that is reported to have violated Ordinance #3025 will receive a team warning. The second violation by anyone associated with a team (player or spectator) will result in the team being removed from the league. WARNINGS WILL BE RECORDED ON THE DAILY GAME SHEETS BY STAFF AND UMPIRES.***
- C. **ONE GAME SUSPENSION (minimum)** - Any player, coach or manager thrown out of a league or play-off game for any reason, will automatically be suspended from participating in the next game for his/her team. The incident will also be reviewed by the City of Torrance Adult Sports Disciplinary Committee and a possible longer suspension may follow.
- D. **TWO GAME SUSPENSION (minimum)** - Any player, coach or manager thrown out of a league or play-off game for verbally threatening any other player, an umpire or spectator will automatically be suspended from participating in the next two games for his/her team. The incident will also be reviewed by the City of Torrance Adult Sports Disciplinary Committee and a possible longer suspension may follow.
- E. **NO PLAYER, COACH OR MANAGER SHALL:** Physically attack, act as an aggressor upon any player, official or spectator. **Penalty** – Officials are required to immediately eject the player from the game and report such acts to the League Director. The player will remain suspended until his/her case has been reviewed by the Adult Sports Disciplinary Committee.
- F. **EJECTION RULE** - Any player ejected from a total of two (2) games in the same season will be suspended for the remainder of that season. The two games do not have to be from the same league or division.
- G. While serving a suspension, a player will not be allowed to participate, view, or be in the general areas of the Adult Sports Programs. Violations will result in further disciplinary action.

7. FREE SUBSTITUTION

- A. The free substitution rule allows for a batting order of more than 10 players and for free substitution during the game. The free substitution rule will apply at the start of each game, unless otherwise announced by the umpire.
- B. A player listed in the batting order must bat when it is his/her turn, unless he/she has been officially removed from the line up for a substitute. All substitutes must be submitted to the umpire and announced to the opposing team.
- C. Any 10 players who are listed in the batting order may be played defensively and may be rotated in and out of the defensive line up.
- D. A player removed from the batting order may not re-enter the game.

NOTE: It is not mandatory that all teams use free substitution; however, a team playing under the RE-ENTRY rule must notify the umpire before the game starts.

- E. Courtesy Runner. Unlimited number of courtesy runners per inning allowed, however, a player may be a courtesy runner only once in a given inning.

8. **RUN RULE – Women and Coed Only**

- A. Any new inning that is started **prior** to one (1) hour of play will be governed by the six-run rule, except if that inning is the seventh inning or extra inning(s).
- B. Any new inning that starts **after** one (1) hour of play, allows teams to score an unlimited number of runs and will be declared the last inning of the game, regardless of the time. The seventh inning (and extra innings) allows unlimited number of runs. **No inning** will be started after the 1 hour and 5 minute time limit has expired, except in the case of a tied game.

9. **PITCHING HEIGHT**

A legal pitch will be one that is delivered at a maximum height of 16' and above the head of the batter (any part of the ball) as deemed by the umpire.

10. **EQUIPMENT**

A new game ball will be provided for each game. The visiting team shall provide a usable ball if game ball is lost or out of play.

- A. **Game Balls** - Official game balls are Dudley – Optic Yellow for Men's and Coed Leagues at Wilson Park; and Dudley LND SB11 – White for Women's Leagues; Diamond ZULU 12RKSC/44/375 White ball will be used at El Nido Park. Game balls may change due to stock availability.
- B. **Bats – MENS & WOMENS LEAGUES** - Shall be on a list of approved bats, as published by the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) and shall not exceed 1.20 BPF rating (as of January, 2011). Visit www.softball.org for more information. Either fast pitch or slow pitch bats may be used.
- C. **Bats – Coed Leagues** – only Bats on the City of Torrance Coed Restricted Bat List can be used in coed leagues. Bats must be single wall OR single wall with a composite handle OR wooden ASA approved softball bats. BASEBALL BATS OF ANY KIND ARE NOT PERMITTED. All approved bats must have the red 'TORRANCE BATS' sticker.

Any player deemed to have used an altered bat in a game will be subject to severe disciplinary action as determined by the City of Torrance Adult Sports Disciplinary Committee. Use of an altered bat is deemed cheating and will not be tolerated. The assigned umpire or Adult Softball staff has the authority to remove any bat from use for cause as defined in the SCMAF Adult Softball Rule Book. **BANNED AND ILLEGAL BAT ISSUES MAY NOT BE PROTESTED.**

An umpire has authority to remove any bat he/she believes is altered or is deemed to be illegal. No protest will be allowed on the field. Failure to adhere to the umpire/staff decision will result in immediate forfeiture of the game and additional disciplinary actions as deemed by the League Director.

11. **TEAM STANDINGS**

- A. All league standings shall be determined strictly on a percentage (won/loss) basis.
- B. New feature added to the stats will be Runs for and Runs against to help gauge the competitiveness of each field of play.

C. Tied games will be recorded as 1/2 game won and 1/2 game lost.

D. Ties will be broken in the following manner to determine playoff placement:

- number of forfeited games in all games
- head to head game results
- runs against (all games in regular season)
- coin flip

- All teams will make the playoffs. In a six team league, the top two seeds will receive a first round bye. In a five team league, the top seed will receive a first round bye. Higher seed is designated HOME TEAM. These rules may change at the discretion of the Community Services Department Manager.

12. **PROTESTS**

- A. Protests shall not be received or considered if they are based on a decision involving the judgment of an umpire.
- B. Highly technical protests and those which could have little or no effect on subsequent play or the final result of the game will not be considered.
- C. A protest must be made immediately after the incident in question and before the next pitch.
- D. Only the manager or captain must notify the umpire, scorekeeper and opposing manager that the game is being continued under a protest. Protests must be noted on the official game card to be considered. Protest may take up to 48 hours to fully investigate and resolve any issues.
- E. Player eligibility may be protested at anytime during the game, following the procedures as stated in A, B, C and D above. In any case, a protest of eligibility if allowed, would affect only the last game of which the protest is made, and Adult Sports will not **consider the effect** eligibility has on games prior to such protested games.

13. **CANCELLED GAMES**

Games cancelled because of rain or wet grounds will only be rescheduled if there is an impact on the final standings. Cancelled games may not be rescheduled if available dates are not available. **No refunds will be issued for cancelled games.**

14. **FIELDING REGULATIONS - COED**

MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS, MALE OR FEMALE	(3)
MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS, MALE OR FEMALE	(5)
TOTAL MINIMUM OF PLAYERS	(8)
TOTAL MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS	(10)

EXAMPLES:

5 MALE	5 FEMALE	5 FEMALE	4 MALE
5 MALE	4 FEMALE	5 FEMALE	3 MALE
5 MALE	3 FEMALE	4 FEMALE	4 MALE

15. **BATTING ORDER - COED**

A batting order may have an unlimited number of players. An alternating male/female batting order must be used.

The batting order must alternate male/female or female/male regardless of the male/female ratio.

EXAMPLES FOR 10 PLAYERS

1. MALE	1. FEMALE
2. FEMALE	2. MALE
3. MALE	3. FEMALE
4. FEMALE	4. MALE
5. MALE	5. FEMALE
6. FEMALE	6. MALE
7. MALE	7. FEMALE
8. FEMALE	8. MALE
9. MALE	9. FEMALE
10. FEMALE	10. MALE

12 PLAYERS

MALE 1	FEMALE 1
MALE 2	FEMALE 2
MALE 3	FEMALE 3
MALE 4	FEMALE 4
MALE 5	FEMALE 5
MALE 6	
MALE 7	

BATTING ORDER

MALE	1
FEMALE	1
MALE	2
FEMALE	2
MALE	3
FEMALE	3
MALE	4
FEMALE	4
MALE	5
FEMALE	5
MALE	6
FEMALE	1
MALE	7
FEMALE	2

MENS/WOMENS/CO-ED LEAGUE GAME RULES

1. A batter will start his/her at-bat with a 1-1 count (1 ball and 1 strike).
2. Every foul ball shall be considered a strike. See Rule Clarification section.
3. Pitcher's Box - A pitcher may deliver a pitch from any point within the pitcher's box. The pitcher's box is located directly behind the existing pitcher's plate and is 6' deep by 24" wide. Any pitch delivered outside of the pitcher's box will be deemed an illegal pitch.
4. The strike zone plate mat will be used for determining balls and strikes.
5. Unlimited Courtesy Runner Rule - A player may only become a courtesy runner one time per inning. If the same batter comes up a second time in that inning and a courtesy runner is requested, only a player who has not been a courtesy runner in that inning may be used.
6. The Home Team may use the option to become the Visiting Team, if and only if, that team has less than 10 players on the field at game time. A game will start with a minimum of 8 players.
7. The team with the higher seed at the start of the playoffs will be declared the home team in all playoff games.

CO-ED LEAGUE GAME RULES

1. A minimum of three (3) outfielders must remain behind an outfield restriction line (180 foot arc from home plate) until the batter hits the pitch. The rover **must remain** 10 feet from a base until the ball is hit. When a **female** is batting, **only** a female may play rover.
Penalty: Batter and all base runners will be awarded one base unless each has advanced one base safely.

2. There will be no restrictions on a player (male or female) as to the defensive position he or she may play, except for the rover position when a female is at bat.
3. Runners may not lead off the base until the ball crosses the plate or is hit by the batter.
4. The batter will start his/her at-bat with a 1-1 count (1 ball and 1 strike).
5. A male batter who is walked on three (3) consecutive balls without any strikes **received** during his turn at bat or intentionally walked prior any pitches, shall be awarded second base. Base runners advance only if forced to vacate their bases. **NOTE:** After a male batter receives one (1) called strike and then is issued an intentional walk, he shall be awarded first base.

RULE CLARIFICATION

1. A player on a team's official roster may be added to the batting order at any point in a game. The Team Manager must inform the umpire of the add. The umpire will inform the opposing team of the add. A player who arrives after a team has gone through the batting order at least once must be added to the end of the batting order. No exceptions.
2. If a player is unable to take his/her turn at bat due to injury, ejection, etc, an out will be declared when it becomes his/hers turn to bat. After the missing batter is declared out, the next batter in the order will come to bat. A missing batter will be called out only once in a given game.
3. The elimination of the foul to waste rules means that any foul ball after strike #2 will be considered an out. This rule will go hand in hand with the rule of games will end either with 7 innings completed or no new inning after 1 hour 5 minutes played. Only exception is with tied games after 7 when one new inning shall be played (see Section 3- D)
4. The umpire has final authority to stop a game due to unplayable or unsafe conditions or circumstances. Once a game has begun, all results will be official per SCMAF rules.
5. A pitcher must come to a full and complete stop before delivering a pitch. Quick pitching a batter will not be permitted.
6. Abusive language directed at an umpire, player or spectator will not be tolerated. It is the responsibility of all participants to demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times. Purposely making a mockery of the game to avoid the mercy rule will result in a forfeit (umpires discretion*)
7. Consumption of alcohol and use of tobacco products on all City of Torrance parks is prohibited. Players and spectators are expected to adhere to this ordinance at all times.

